Improvment in power sector

1416. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the true potential of I.T. revolution has not been realized in the country, owing to lack of adequate power generation and its poor distribution system, particularly in rural areas; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the measures contemplated to augment power generation and to streamline its distribution?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) According to information received from Department of Information and Technology, most Information Communication Technology (ICT) applications are fairly dependent on electricity and deficiency in supply of power to such applications will reduce the true potential of IT revolution in the rural areas. However, few Schemes related to ICT applications launched by Department of IT has taken note of the existing power situation in rural India and adequate provisions have been made in the Schemes to provide back-up power in the event of non-availability of regular power during prime business hours.

(b) To augment the supply of electricity in the country a capacity addition of 78,577 MW has been proposed in the XI Plan. To provide reliable and quality power supply to rural areas, the Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana has been launched, and under the scheme it has inter-alia been envisaged that States must make adequate arrangements for supply of electricity, and there should be no discrimination in the hours of supply between rural and urban households.

Slippage in power generation capacity

1417. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a slippage in power generation capacity during the current plan period;

(b) if so, the reasons for the slow progress;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the current plan's target of power sector is nearly four times what was achieved during the Tenth Five Year Plan;

(d) whether Government would expedite the project to avoid excessive cost variance by forwarding to the next Five Year Plan as it did during the current Plan; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) According to the proposed capacity addition programme, during 2007-08 capacity addition to the tune of 16335 MW comprising of 12704 MW Thermal, 2751 MW Hydro & 880 MW Nuclear has been envisaged. However, according to the present assessment, the expected capacity addition is likely to be 12039 MW (Thermal: 9007 MW, Hydro: 2372 MW & Nuclear: 660 MW). The main reasons for slippages in power generation capacity during the first year of the plan, inter-alia include:

- Delay in supplies/erection by suppliers/contractors
- Deployment of inadequate manpower
- Non availability of gas